

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
APRIL 27, 2015
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2015-0154
902 S. 1ST STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1910 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, pyramidal-roofed frame house with a partial-width inset porch on plain, square wood posts; single and paired 1:1 fenestration.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1910. Fred Foster, the first known occupant of the house, appears in the 1910 U.S. Census at this site. Foster was a carpenter who went to work for the Austin Sand and Gravel Company while living here. He and his wife, Mamie, lived here until around 1915. The house was then occupied by tradesmen, including a painter, another carpenter, and an electrician, until around 1923, when it was purchased by Jesse L. and Eva Mae Whitaker. Jesse and Eva Mae Whitaker had farmed in rural Travis County in the early 1920s, then moved into Austin, where Jesse first worked as a clerk in a South Austin grocery store. He then became a survey man for the City Water Department, and the 1930 U.S. Census lists him as a gang boss for the department. He and Eva Mae lived here until around 1965. The house then again became a rental unit, with tenants including a gas station attendant, and the assistant sexton of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery.

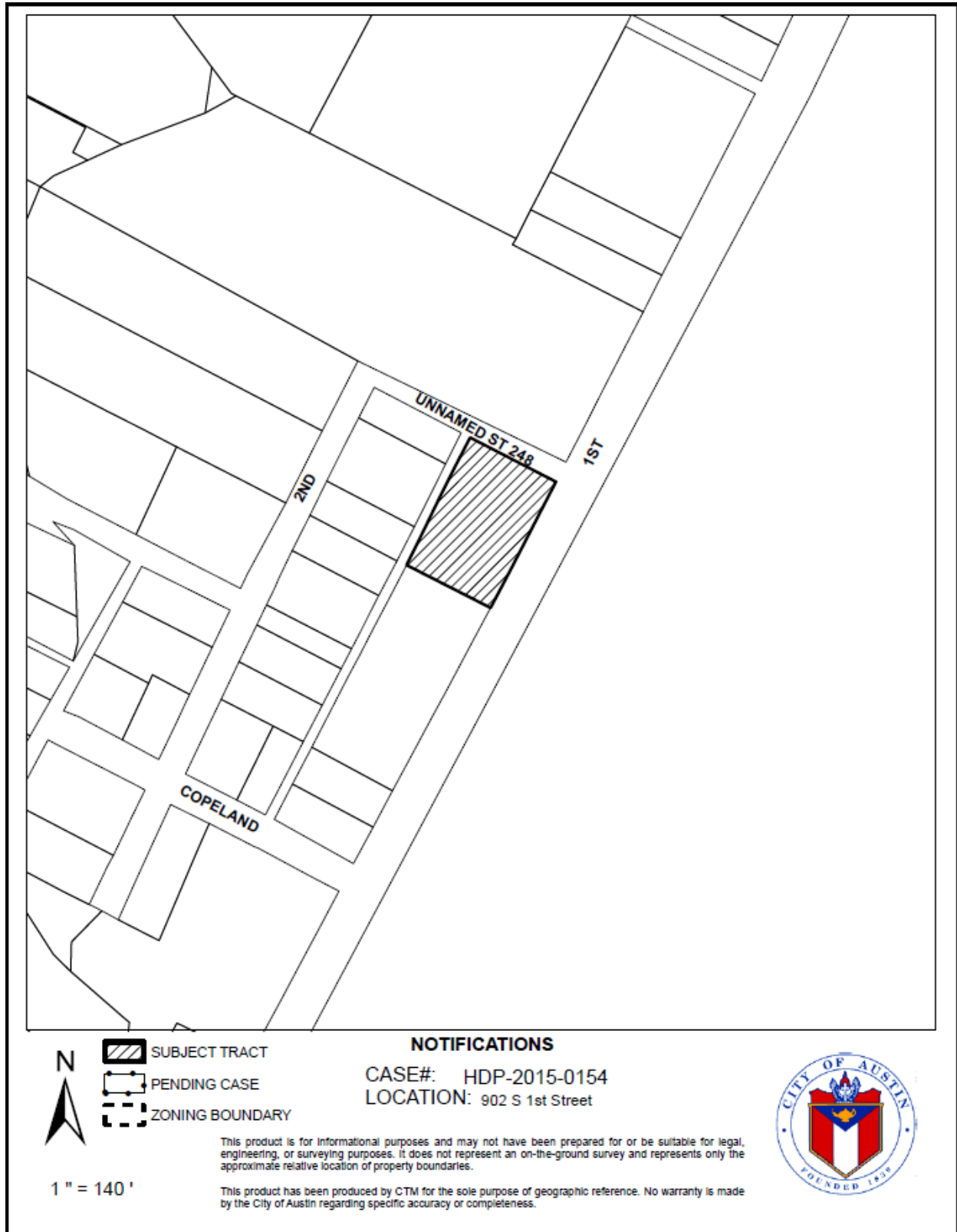
STAFF COMMENTS

The house does not appear in any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use if feasible; otherwise, release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center. While the house does not qualify as an individual landmark, it is characteristic of the development in the Bouldin Addition in the first decades of the 20th century, and extra consideration should be given to its preservation for the benefit of the architectural heritage of the neighborhood.

LOCATION MAP



902 S. 1st Street
ca. 1910



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 902 S. 1st Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
April, 2015

1992	No return
1985-86	E. Johnson, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that E. Johnson was a new resident at this address.
1981	Vacant
1977	James F. and Gayle Stone, renters Assistant sexton, Austin Memorial Park Cemetery
1973	James F. and Gayle Stone, renters Caretaker, City of Austin
1968	Lawrence J. and Clara McDaniels, renters Attendant, Kavecki Texaco (not listed in the directory)

1962	J. Lee and Eva M. Whitaker, owners Foreman, City Water and Sewer Department
1959	J. Lee and E. Mae Whitaker, owners Foreman, City Water and Sewer Department
1955	J. Lee and E. Mae Whitaker, owners Foreman, City Water and Light Department
1952	J. Lee and Mae Whitaker, owners Foreman, City Water Department
1949	J. Lee and Mae Whitaker, owners There is no listing for J. Lee and Mae Whitaker in the alphabetical section of the directory.
1947	J. Lee and E. Mae Whitaker, owners Foreman, City Water Department
1944-45	Jesse L. and Mae Whitaker, owners Foreman
1941	Jesse L. and Mae Whitaker, owners Survey man, City Water Department
1939	Jesse L. and Eva M. Whitaker, owners Driver
1937	Jesse L. and Mae Whitaker, owners Surveyor, City Water, Light, and Power Department
1935	Jesse L. and Mae Whitaker, owners Foreman, City Water, Light, and Power Department
1932-33	Jesse L. and Mae Whitaker, owners Foreman, City Water, Light, and Power Department NOTE: The house is listed as 1012 1 st Street, Bouldin Addition.
1930-31	Jesse L. and Mae Whitaker, owners Troubleman, City Water, Light, and Power Department NOTE: The house is listed as 1012 1 st Street, Bouldin Addition.
1929	Jesse L. and Mae Whitaker, owners No occupation listed NOTE: The house is listed as 1012 1 st Street, Bouldin Addition.
1927	Jesse L. and Mae Whitaker, owners Employed by Woodward Body Works, S. Congress Avenue, 3 miles south of the city limits. NOTE: The house is listed as 1010 1 st Street, Bouldin Addition.
1924	Jesse L. and Mae Whitaker, owners No occupation listed

NOTE: The house is listed as 1010 1st Street, Bouldin Addition.

- 1922 Charles F. and Beulah Jennings, owners
Electrician
NOTE: Jesse L. and May Whitaker are listed at 1900 Eva Street; he was a clerk for Alex J. Raif, groceries, 1710 S. Congress Avenue.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1010 1st Street, Bouldin Addition.
- 1920 William M. and Edith Pearson, renters
Assistant engineer, State School for the Deaf
NOTE: The house is listed as 1010 1st Street, Bouldin Addition.
- 1918 Lee and Daisy Clanton, renters
Carpenter
NOTE: The house is listed as 1010 1st Street, Bouldin Addition.
- 1916 John R. Munro
Painter
NOTE: The house is listed as 1110 1st Street, Bouldin Addition.
- 1914 Fred Foster
Laborer, Austin Sand and Gravel Company, foot of Pressler Street south of the Austin Electric Railway Powerhouse.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1110 1st Street, Bouldin Addition.
- 1912-13 Fred Foster
Carpenter
NOTE: The house is un-numbered; Fred Foster lived on the west side of 1st Street in the Bouldin Addition, 2 blocks north of W. James Street.
- 1910-11 Unknown
NOTE: Fred Foster was a laborer living at 610 W. Gibson Street.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Fred and Mamie Foster (ca. 1910 – ca 1915)

Fred and Mamie Foster appear in the 1910 U.S. Census as the owners of a house on 1st Street in the Bouldin Addition. Fred Foster was 22, had been born in Texas to Tennessee-born parents, and was a laborer working out. Mamie Foster was 20, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had an infant son, Fred, Jr.

FRED FOSTER

Fred Foster died at his home, 1901 Riverview Street, Tuesday night. He was born July 2, 1887, and had been a resident of Austin for over 50 years. He was a member of the Church of Christ. Survivors are his wife, four sons, Fred L. Foster, Raymond W. Foster and Chester L. Foster, all of Austin, and James U. Foster of Bertram; one daughter, Mrs. Rike Thompson of Dallas; one sister, Mrs. S. J. Scruggs of Taylor; one brother, M. E. Foster of Crockett. Funeral services will be held at the Church of Christ, Taylor and Waller, Thursday at 10 a. m., with Brother C. O. Etheridge officiating. The body will be at the Cook Funeral Home until Thursday. Pallbearers will be L. L. McCandless, H. H. Reissig, Chester Heep, Ray Kinche-loe, S. G. Sanders and H. C. Turner. Honorary pallbearers will be members of Local No. 783, Plasterers and Cement Finishers Union.

Obituary of Fred Foster
 Austin American, April 15, 1946

William M. and Edith Pearson (ca. 1919 – ca. 1921)

William M. and Edith Pearson appear in the 1920 U.S. Census as the renters of this house, which is listed as 1010 S. 1st Street. William M. Pearson was 29, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. Edith Pearson was 26, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

Jesse L. and Eva Mae Whitaker (ca. 1923 – ca. 1965)

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Jesse L. and Eva M. Whitaker on a rented farm in Travis County. Jesse L. Whitaker was 25, had been born in Texas to Kentucky-born parents, and was a farmer. Eva M. Whitaker was 19, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows J.L. and Mae Whitaker as the owners of this house, which was worth \$2,500. J.L. Whitaker was 34, and was a gang boss for the City Water and Light Department; Mae was 29, and had no occupation listed. They had a son, Raymond Lee, 1. The house is listed as 1010 S. 1st Street.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Jesse L. and Eva May Whitaker as the owners of this house, which was worth \$1,600. The house is listed as 902 S. 1st Street. Jesse L. Whitaker was 46, and a surveyor for the City Water Department; Eva May was 39. Their son, Raymond Lee Whitaker, was 11. They had a lodger, Willie Tumlinson, 21, who had been born in Texas, and was a plumber.

WHITAKER, Jesse Lee, 84, 4010 Manchaca Road, died Saturday. Services 3 p.m. today at Wilke-Clay Funeral Home. Burial, Austin Memorial Park. Survivors: wife, Mrs. Mae Polk Whitaker of Austin; foster daughter, Jean Polk Young of Austin; son, Raymond Lee Whitaker of Austin; sister, Fannie McCrary of San Marcos; three foster grandchildren.

Obituary of Jesse Lee Whitaker
Austin American-Statesman, December 24, 1978

Mae Polk Whitaker

Mae Polk Whitaker, age 86, of Austin, died Saturday.

She was a member of Congress Avenue Baptist Church.

Mrs. Whitaker was preceded in death by her husband, Lee Whitaker.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Raymond and Marie Whitaker of Austin; foster daughter and son-in-law, Jean and Aubra Young of Manor; three foster grandchildren; two sisters, Nola Henderson of Austin and Lettie Figer of Manchaca; four brothers, Archie Polk of Austin; Herman Polk and Alton Polk both of Manchaca; and Virgil Polk of Florence.

Funeral services, 2:00 PM, Monday at the Harrell Funeral Home Chapel in Austin, with Reverend John Powers officiating. Burial in Austin Memorial Park.

Arrangements by Harrell Funeral Home, Austin, 443-1366.

Obituary of Eva Mae Whitaker
Austin American-Statesman, March 2, 1987